

We claim:

1. Oil from seeds, said oil comprising, an oleic acid content of more than 40 wt% and a stearic acid content of more than 12 wt% based on the total fatty acid content of said oil.
2. Oil according to claim 1, wherein the oleic acid content is from 55 to 75 wt%.
3. Oil according to claim 1, wherein the stearic acid content is from 15 to 40 wt%.
4. Oil according to claim 1, having a total level of saturated fatty acids of at least 20 wt%.
5. Oil according to claim 1, having a linoleic acid content of less than 20 wt%.
6. Oil according to claim 1 wherein the sunflower oil has at least 90 w/w% of the saturated fatty acid groups in the 1 or 3 position.
7. Oil according to claim 6, wherein from 95 to 100 w/w% of the saturated fatty acid groups are in the 1 or 3 position.
8. Sunflower plant capable of producing seeds according to claim 1.
9. Method of obtaining a sunflower oil having an oleic acid content of more than 40 wt% and a stearic acid content of more than 12 wt% based on the total fatty acid content of said oil by extracting oil from the seeds according to claim 1.
10. Method according to claim 9, wherein said extraction process does not involve a substantial modification of the sunflower oil.
11. Method according to claim 10, wherein no substantial chemical or enzymatic rearrangement takes place and no substantial hardening.
12. Food product comprising a sunflower oil, said oil having an oleic acid content of more than 40 wt% and a stearic acid content of more than 12 wt% based on the total fatty acid content of said oil.
13. Food product according to claim 12, wherein the level of sunflower oil is from 3 to 100 wt%.
14. Food product according to claim 13 selected from the group of spreads, sauces, ice-cream, soups, bakery products and confectionery products.
15. Food product according to claim 14, being a spread in which the sunflower oil is used as a hardstock at a level of 5 to 20 wt%.
16. Cosmetic product comprising a sunflower oil, said oil having an oleic acid content of more than 40 wt% and a stearic acid content of more than 12 wt% based on the total fatty acid content of said oil.
17. Cosmetic product according to claim 16, wherein the level of sunflower oil is from 3 to 100 wt%.
18. Cosmetic product according to claim 17 selected from the group of creams, lotions, lipsticks, soap bars and skin or hair oils.

